



COASTAL MAINE - BY LAND AND SEA

21 - 27 JUNE 2021



We hope to find Wilson's Storm Petrel on the Machias Seal Island trip.

This trip will begin by exploring the boreal forests of Acadia National Park, Cadillac Mountain. Here we might expect to see **Western Osprey** and **Bald Eagle** as well as smaller boreal species such as **Grey Jay** and **Black-backed Woodpecker**. Then we will travel along the coast to Bar Harbor, where we will depart on an exciting whale watching boat trip to Petit Manan Island. On our second boat ride, this one out of Cutler Harbor, we'll visit Machias Seal Island to search for nesting **Atlantic Puffins**, **Razorbills**, **Common Murres**, **Arctic Terns**, other pelagic species, and more whales! Our pelagic trips may produce **Ocean Sunfish**, **Grey Seal**, and **Humpback, Fin**, and **Common Minke Whales**. On land we will look for **American Beaver** and **North American Porcupine**, and perhaps we'll see an **American Black Bear** or a **Moose** or two. After our pelagics we will head to Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Machias, and Quoddy Head State Park for their rugged coastlines, boreal forests, and abundance of breeding species.

Some of our additional targets on this boreal and pelagic tour include **Northern Fulmar**, **Great Shearwater**, **Manx Shearwater**, **Leach's Storm Petrel**, **Wilson's Storm Petrel**, **Northern Gannet**, **American Bittern**, **Common Eider**, **Spruce Grouse**, **Sora**, **Upland Sandpiper**, **Red-necked Phalarope**, **Arctic Tern**, **Black Guillemot**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, **Alder Flycatcher**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Vesper Sparrow**, **Pine Siskin**, **Red Crossbill**, and **Evening Grosbeak**.



American Bittern can be tricky to spot.

Itinerary (7 days/6 nights)

Day 1. Bangor to Bar Harbor

The tour begins in Bangor, Maine. From here we'll drive toward the coast for our first taste of down-east birding in Acadia National Park. This is a good time to search for cliff-nesting **Peregrine Falcon** and scan for **Common Loon**, **Western Osprey**, and **Bald Eagle**. We will overnight in a motel near Bar Harbor; here we may encounter singing warblers and the occasional flock of **Red Crossbills**.

Overnight: Bar Harbor

Day 2. Bar Harbor area

Today we'll have the whole day to explore Mount Desert Island. The spruce/fir forests should hopefully yield **Black-backed Woodpecker**, **Grey Jay**, **Boreal Chickadee**, **Magnolia** and **Blackpoll Warblers**, and with a bit of luck **Spruce Grouse**. We will bird the coastline, looking for **Common Eider**, **Black Guillemot**, **Great Cormorant**, and lots of gulls, terns, and ducks. **King Eider** is a possibility, albeit a rarity. A great day of birding deserves a great Maine seafood dinner.

Overnight: Bar Harbor



Western Osprey is an amazing bird and very adept at catching fish.

Day 3. Acadia National Park and Petit Manan Island trip

We'll have another morning to bird Acadia National Park, where we can explore some new areas and return to a few from the day before yesterday. Around lunchtime we'll head for the dock at Bar Harbor and prepare for a half-day whale watching trip to Petit Manan Island. **Humpback Whale** is likely; one year we had two breaching for nearly an hour very close to the boat! Several other species of whales and porpoises are possible. There will also be pelagic birds to observe, including various shearwaters, storm petrels, and alcid species. Perhaps an ocean-going **Eastern Kingbird** will come and visit us again, 15 miles at sea!

Overnight: Bar Harbor



*We may see **Great Shearwater** on the boat ride over to Machias Seal Island.*

Day 4. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

We'll begin working our way north and arrive at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge on the New Brunswick border. Here we will look out for **American Bittern, Sora, Northern Goshawk, Spruce and Ruffed Grouse, Bay-breasted** and **Cape May Warblers**, and **Winter Wren**. There are nesting **Bald Eagles** and **Western Ospreys** and families of **Ring-necked Ducks**, as well as another good chance for **Black-backed Woodpecker**. We'll overnight in Machias, and just as in Bar Harbor there may be nesting warblers behind the motel or **Bobolink** across the road.

Overnight: Bluebird Motel, Machias



The delightful Cape May Warbler.

Day 5. Machias Seal Island trip

We depart Cutler Harbor at 7:00 a.m. for Machias Seal Island, where we should see nesting **Atlantic Puffin**, **Razorbill**, **Common Murre**, and **Arctic Tern**, all at point-blank range; this makes for great photographic opportunities. **Grey Seals** are likely at North Rock, while **Harbor Seals** are common. During the morning boat ride we will look for pelagic species such as **Northern Fulmar**, **Great Shearwater**, and **Wilson's Storm Petrel**. After lunch we'll drive to Quoddy Head State Park that juts out into the Grand Manan Channel, which offers great opportunities for seabirds and shorebirds. Boreal species may include **Lincoln's Sparrow** and **Palm Warbler**.

Overnight: Bluebird Motel, Machias

Day 6. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

Today we will probably return to the scenic Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge to explore more of its extensive trails and roads. We will also visit the Meddybemps blueberry barrens to look for breeding **Upland Sandpiper** and **Vesper Sparrow**.

Overnight: Bluebird Motel, Machias

Day 7. Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge to Bangor

Our final morning will be spent exploring some new areas, attempting to fill in our list of boreal birds and breeding warblers. One year we found our only **Two-barred Crossbill**, **Evening**

Grosbeak, and **Pine Siskin** on the very last day! The tour will end at Bangor airport for our afternoon flights home.

Please note that the itinerary cannot be guaranteed as it is only a rough guide and can be changed (usually slightly) due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors.

Duration: 7 days
Limit: 3 – 7
Dates: 21 – 27 June 2021
Start: Bangor, Maine
End: Bangor, Maine
Prices: US\$3432 per person sharing 2021

Single Supplements: US\$360 2021

Price includes:

Meals
Accommodation
Guiding fees
Entrance fees
Boat rides
All transport while on tour
Tolls

Price excludes:

All domestic and international flights
Items of a personal nature, e.g. gifts
Alcoholic drinks
Personal insurance
Gratuities